

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SIG-03 MMO-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SPTA-02
/083 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PPC:RWINSTANLEY
APPROVED BY ARA:VPVAKY
ARA/CAR:AH EWITT
ARA/AND:MBARNEBEY
ARA/MEX:DSIMCOX
NSC:RPASTOR (SUBS)
ARA:FMCNEIL
IO/UNP:TNILES
ARA:SSHELTON

-----038989 241906Z /44

O 241753Z JUL 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS NIACT IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186242

BOGOTA FOR UARRY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TAGS: PINT, PGOV, RQ

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION ON PUERTO RICO

1. ON JULY 25, THE WHITE HOUSE WILL ISSUE A
PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION TO THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO
RICO ON THE OCCASION OF PUERTO RICO'S 80TH YEAR
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UNDER THE U.S. FLAG AND THE 26TH YEAR OF THE
FOUNDING OF THE COMMONWEALTH. THE PROCLAMATION,
FINAL TEXT OF WHICH NOT YET AVAILABLE, WILL UNDERLINE
PRESIDENT CARTER'S SUPPORT FOR PRINCIPLE THAT
RELATIONS BETWEEN PUERTO RICO AND U.S. MUST BE
BASED ON FREE AND VOLUNTARY CHOICE OF PUERTO
RICAN PEOPLE. IT WILL STATE THAT, SHOULD

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DECIDE TO HOLD ANOTHER REFERENDUM ON FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS, PRESIDENT WILL SUPPORT WHATEVER DECISION PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO REACH.

2. MAJOR ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE TO PUERTO RICO ARE STATEHOOD, INDEPENDENCE, OR COMMONWEALTH STATUS, PERHAPS IN A MODIFIED FORM. PROCLAMATION WILL CONTAIN ASSURANCES THAT ADMINISTRATION WILL RESPECT WHATEVER CHOICE IS MADE, AND THAT PRESIDENT WILL URGE CONGRESS

TO SUPPORT DECISION AS WELL. PROCLAMATION WILL RECOGNIZE VALUE OF UNIQUE CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC HERITAGE.

3. QUESTION OF PUERTO RICO'S STATUS IN RECENT YEARS HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF GROWING DEBATE WITHIN UN COMMITTEE OF 24 WHERE CUBA AND OTHERS HAVE ASSERTED THAT PUERTO RICO SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A COLONY, SUBJECT TO UN C-24 OVERSIGHT. LAST YEAR, FOR FIRST TIME, IMPORTANT FIGURES FROM THE THREE MAJOR PUERTO RICAN PARTIES APPEARED AT UN TO SUPPORT NEED FOR CHANGE BECAUSE OF "COLONIALIST ELEMENTS" IN PRESENT SITUATION. US HAS SO FAR SUCCEEDED IN POTPONING A SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO IN C-24, AND THUS KEEPING ISSUE OUT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BUT BY PROGRESSIVELY SMALLER MARGINS. RECENT SHIFT IN CONFIDENTIAL

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VOTING COMPLEXION OF C-24 IN DIRECTION UNFAVORABLE TO OUR INTERESTS (E.G. BOTH ETHIOPIA AND AFGHANI TAN, WHO VOTED WITH US LAST YEAR, MAY WELL VOTE AGAINST US THIS YEAR) RAISES VERY REAL PROSPECT THAT IN ABSENCE OF ACTION ON OUR PART VOTE THIS FALL COULD LEAD TO FORMAL UN CHARACTERIZATION OF PUERTO RICO AS US COLONY. SUCH ACTION WOULD CERTAINLY AVE ADVERSE IMPACT ON CONTINUED US PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR UN, PERHAPS OF SUBSTANTIAL DIMENSIONS.

4. PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION WILL PROVIDE POINT OF REFERENCE THROUGH WHICH U.S. WILL BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH THAT PUERTO RICO IS NOT A COLONY. BASIC PURPOSE THIS INSTRUCTION IS TO HAVE POSTS APPROACH LATIN AND CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS TO HELP ASSURE PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF US ACTION AND TO SECURE COOPERATION WHEN MATTER IS RAISED AT UN C-24 THIS AUGUST.

5. FOR MEXICO CITY: UNLESS YOU PERCEIVE OBJECTION, YOU ARE REQUESTED TO APPROACH FOREIGN SECRETARY ROEL AND, IF POSSIBLE, AMBASSADOR GONZALEZ GALVEZ, TO INFORM THEM OF NATURE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF JULY 25

PROCLAMATION AND EXPRESS HOPE THAT GOM WILL TAKE IT INTO ACCOUNT IN DEALING WITH QUESTION OF PUERTO RICO AT UN. (NOT A MEMBER OF C-24, MEXICO HAS NOT HAD OCCASION TO VOTE ON SUBSTANCE OF PUERTO RICO ISSUE AT UN. IN OUR DEMARCHE ON T I ISSUE IN 1976, GOM SAID IT WOULD BE GUIDED BY PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER STATE.) GIVEN UNAMBIGUOUS CHARACTER OF PRESIDENTIAL COMMITMENT TO SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PUERTO RICO, WE HOPE GOM

WILL USE ITS INFLUENCE TO HELP US KEEP ISSUE FROM COMING TO SUBSTANTIVE VOTE IN C-24.

6. FOR KINGSTON: YOU MAY WISH TO SUGGEST TO JAMAICANS
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THAT THEY IMPRESS UPON THE CUBANS THE SINCERITY OF THE ADMINISTRATION IN ITS DESIRE TO HONOR THE WILL OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE, WHATEVER THAT MAY BE, PERHAPS CITING THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY AND MANLEY'S RECENT CONTACTS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AT PANAMA. WHILE PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE HAS BEEN WHAT CUBANS CLAIM TO BE "AN ISSUE OF PRINCIPLE" (FOR REASONS LINKED TO CUBA'S OWN INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE), CASTRO RECENTLY STATED THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT ANY STATUS FREELY CHOSEN BY THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE THEMSELVES, WHETHER OR NOT IT BE INDEPENDENCE. OUR OWN POSITION, THEN, DOES NOT NECESSARILY CONFLICT WITH CUBAN. WE TOO ARE WILLING TO LEAVE DECISION TO PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE. RESOLUTION IN COMMITTEE OF 24, HOWEVER, WILL NOT BE HELPFUL.

7. FOR PORT OF SPAIN: A MEMBER OF THE C-24, T&T HAS TRADITIONALLY ABSTAINED IN VOTES ON THE PUERTO RICO ISSUE. IN VIEW OF THE NEAR CERTAINTY THAT THE VOTE THIS YEAR ON A PROCEDURAL MOTION TO DEFER CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUE FOR ANOTHER YEAR WILL BE VERY CLOSE, A SWITCH IN T&T'S POSITION FROM ABSTENTION TO SUPPORT OF THIS MOTION IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. WE ARE AWARE OF THE PROBLEM POSED BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S OVERALL ATTITUDE AND THE LIKELIHOOD THAT ANY APPROACH TO HIM WOULD BE FUTILE. HOWEVER, UNLESS THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD WORK AGAINST OUR INTERESTS YOU SHOULD RAISE THIS MATTER WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, AND STRESS IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THIS ISSUE, EXPRESSING HOPE THAT T&T WILL NOT STAND

BY IN FACE OF CUBAN EFFORT TO MISUSE UN IN EFFORT TO EMBARRASS UNITED STATES. EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT THAT PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION, WITH ITS CLEAR COMMITMENT
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TO SUPPORT WHATEVER DECISION THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO MIGHT REACH IN AN EVENTUAL STATUS REFERENDUM, MAKES C-24 ASSERTION OF JURISDICTION OVER PUERTO UNNECESSARY AND HIGHLY INAPPROPRIATE.

8. FOR SANTIAGO: GOC, AS MEMBER OF C-24, SHOULD BE ADVISED OF U.S. INTENTION. WE BELIEVE PREFERABLE OPERATIVE DEMARCHE BE UNDERTAKEN BY USUN BUT YOU

AUTHORIZED MAKE SUPPORTING REPRESENTATION IF YOU BELIEVE DESIRABLE.

9. FOR USUN: IT IS SUGGESTED THAT USUN MAKE PRIMARY CONTACT WITH CHILEAN DELEGATION IN NEW YORK, SEEKING GOC'S CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR U.S. POSITION IN C-24.

10. FOR CARACAS: BECAUSE OF VENEZUELA'S LEADERSHIP ROLE IN CARIBBEAN AND ITS IDENTIFICATION WITH ISSUES SUCH AS THIS, IT IS WELL POSITIONED TO HELP US ACHIEVE BROADER UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITION ON PUERTO RICAN ISSUE. MOREOVER, BECAUSE OF PEREZ' EXTENSIVE CONTACTS WITH VARIOUS POLITICAL GROUPS IN PUERTO RICO, INCLUDING PARTY CONTACTS WITH PDP (NPP), HE MAY BE IN A GOOD POSITION TO HELP US IN PUERTO RICO ITSELF BY ADVISING PUERTO RICANS, IN LIGHT OF PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT, TO FOLLOW MORE CONSTRUCTIVE LINE IN UN APPEARANCES THIS YEAR. YOUR DEMARCHE WITH PEREZ, OR FOREIGN MINISTER CONSALVI, SHOULD STRESS OUR HOPE THAT VENEZUELA WILL TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE WITHIN HEMISPHERE COMMUNITY AND AT UN IN SUPPORT OF DEFERRING CUBAN RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO. WE WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN PEREZ' REACTION PROPOSED STATEMENT AND ANY THOUGHTS HE MIGHT HAVE ON STRATEGY AND TACTICS TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR U.S. POSITION.

11. INSTRUCTIONS FOR LONDON AND HAVANA CONTAINED IN CONFIDENTIAL

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SEPTTEL.

12. FOR BOGOTA. WE HAVE PARTICULAR INTEREST IN CONSULTING WITH COLOMBIA BECAUSE OF FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO'S ROLE A PRESIDENT OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. WE HOPE LIEVANO WILL UNDERSTAND U.S. POSITION ON PUERTO RICO AND USE HIS INFLUENCE TO KEEP THIS

ISSUE OUT OF UNGA.

13. FOR ALL ADDRESSEES: YOU ARE REQUESTED
TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENT AT FOREIGN MINISTER
LEVEL OR HIGHER TO ADVISE OF NATURE AND
SIGNIFICANCE OF JULY 25 PROCLAMATION AND REQUEST
COOPERATION IN DEALING WITH THIS ISSUE AT UN.
WE LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION WHETHER THIS APPROACH
SHOULD BE MADE IN CONTEXT PROVIDING INFORMATION ON
A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT OR IN THE CONTEXT OF REQUEST FOR
SUPPORT. IF YOU BELIEVE IT IS NOT DESIRABLE TO RAISE
ISSUE AT SUCH LEVEL AT THIS TIME, PLEASE ADVISE
DEPARTMENT PROMPTLY.

14. FINAL TEXT OF PROCLAMATION WILL BE CABLED AS
SOON AS AVAILABLE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOBBYING, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE186242
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RWINSTANLEY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780303-0833
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780727/aaaaawhm.tel
Line Count: 240
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7b29f96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1905742
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION ON PUERTO RICO
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, PGOV, PORG, PEPR, RQ, US, XM, XL, UN, C-24
To: ARA POSTS USUN NEW YORK MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7b29f96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014